

JOINT MESSAGE FORM

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

DECLASSIFIED

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Oct 23 16 00 '62

PRECEDENCE		TYPE MSG (Check)			ACCOUNTING -	ORIG OR REFERS TO	CLASSIFICATION OF REFERENCE
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FROM:

JCS

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS
Regular JCS
Distribution.

TO: CINCLANT

INFO: CNO

COMDT COAST GUARD

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CINCEUR

CINCSAC

CINCAL

JCS 6896

DATE 23 TIME 0150
MONTH Oct YEAR 1962

TO: JCS

JCS

TYPE NAME AND TITLE (Signature, if required)

Maj. Gen. H. G. WARD OP 60B

PHONE

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SIGNATURE

RELEASER

TYPED (or stamped) NAME AND TITLE

JOHN M. REYNOLDS

Major General, USAF

Vice Director, Joint Staff

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JACE AJCC FT RITCHIE MD

JACE AFLOAT NORFOLK VA

JACE AIRBORNE ANDREWS AFB MD

SECRET JCS 6896 From JCS

SUBJ: Blockade of Cuba. Ref: JCS 6848 of 22 October
1962 DTG 221111Z.

1. Above reference downgraded to Secret.
2. Revise paragraph C to read as follows:

"C. Procedures for Visit, Search, Diversion and Taking into Custody.
"1. All ships, including combatant, surface and sub-surface, Soviet and non-Soviet, designated by CINCLANT on basis of information available to him will be intercepted by U. S. ships. Ships not so designated are not to be interfered with. If CINCLANT or the commander of the intercepting ship believes the intercepted ship may be carrying prohibited material to Cuba, a visit and search will be made to verify the belief. Procedures to be followed in the case of visit and search will be similar to those prescribed in section 502(b) of NWIP 10-2 except that, unless specifically authorized, subsection 8 of section 502(b) will not be applicable and log entries will not state that prize procedures have been invoked or

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are being followed. Specific instructions as to log entries and forms will follow in separate message.

"2. Ships which after being intercepted signal their intention to proceed to non-Cuban ports may be released without visit or search. The commander of the intercepting ship may prescribe courses for the intercepted ship to follow. Surveillance will be maintained over such intercepted ships. Any ship which fails to proceed as elected or directed, or which attempts to proceed to a Cuban port, will be stopped and, boarded. If a satisfactory explanation for the failure to proceed as elected or directed is not promptly forthcoming, the ship will be taken into custody and diverted to a U. S. port designated by the Blockade Force Commander or other authority as designated by CINCLANT for disposition.

"3. Any ship which is determined by the Commander of the intercepting ship to be carrying no prohibited material shall be permitted to proceed to Cuba.

"4. Ships which are to be visited will be stopped. In signifying his intent to stop a ship, the Commander of the intercepting ship will use all available communications, including international code signals, flag hoists, blinking lights, radio,

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loud speakers and other appropriate means. Failing this, warning shots across the bow should be fired or, in the case of submarines, equivalent warning action should be taken. Failing this, minimum force may be used, attempting if possible to damage only non-vital parts of the intercepted ship, such as the rudder, and attempting to avoid injury or loss of life.

"5. Visit and search of a stopped ship shall consist of examining the manifest and inspecting the cargo. In the event visit is refused, the ship may be taken into custody. A boarding party shall be placed on board. Forceful boarding and control of the ship's operation may be necessary. If boarding meets with organized resistance, the ship will be destroyed.

"6. If it becomes necessary to destroy a ship, ample warning should be given to intentions in order to permit sufficient time for debarkation of the passengers and crew. Assistance shall be given to the maximum extent permitted by the operational conditions.

"7. Ships believed to be carrying prohibited material shall be directed to proceed to such non-Cuban port as the owners or master may elect. The commander of the intercepting ship may designate

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courses to be followed. Surveillance shall be maintained over the intercepted ships. Any ship which fails to proceed as elected or directed, or which attempts to proceed to a Cuban port, will be handled as detailed in paragraph 2 above.

"8. If a ship is visited but search is refused, the commander of the intercepting ship will take the intercepted ship into custody if he has reasonable grounds for suspecting that it is carrying prohibited materials. It will be diverted to a designated U. S. port for disposition.

"9. Any ships, including surface warships, armed merchant ships or submarines, or any aircraft, which interfere or threaten to interfere with a U. S. ship engaged in visit and search will be treated as hostile and may be engaged to the extent required to terminate the interference. Any ships, including surface warships, armed merchant ships, or submarines, or any aircraft, which take actions which can reasonably be considered as threatening a U. S. ship engaged in visit and search may be subjected to attack to the extent required to terminate the threat."

3. Introductory language to paragraph I D 3 is revised as follows:

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"In preventing an aircraft believed to be carrying prohibited material, etc."

4. In paragraph IIIA, in fifth sentence, after "U.S. forces be authorized," insert the following words:
"by JCS."

5. Change "blockade" to "quarantine" throughout the message. GP-4.

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